

AS YOU ARRIVE TODAY...

You're probably finding in your chair an animal (or two) that is meant for our "ark/altar" on the center Table! Take some time to enjoy your friend's company...maybe they remind you of a special moment in your life, or another friend you loved, or your deep commitment to God's amazing creation...

When you're ready, take this particular animal to the Table and find a good spot for them around or on the ark itself!

"Everything is holy now!"



IN THE BEGINNING, HALLELUJAH

PRELUDE

Catherine York

* SOUNDING OF THE BELL

As we hear the bell's invitation, we may rise
in body or in spirit to welcome the Spirit of God!

* INVOCATION

Ashrei yoshvei

Ashrei yoshvei veitekha

Ashrei yoshvei veitekha

od yehalelukha selah

I sing for you

I sing for what is holy and is true

I sing for all creation, for life and liberation

Everyday anew

* ONE CREATION, ONE CIRCLE, ONE LOVE

One: O God, we thank you for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field, for creatures of the sea and creeping crawlers of the earth. We praise you, O God, for the gift of everything wild.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for pets, for the animals in our homes, for dogs and cats, for hamsters and turtles. We praise you, O God, for the gift of creature companions.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for helpers, for the animals who aid us, for service and therapy animals, and for search-and-rescue dogs. We praise you, O God, for the faithful care of our fellow beings.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for creatures who teach and inspire, for classroom pets and the residents of zoos, for rodents in labs and the subjects of medical studies. We praise you, O God, for the mysteries of your wonderful world.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for the animals of farms and fields, for the lives that sustain our own, for cows and chickens, for pigs and fish. We praise you, O God, for the web of life that sustains your world.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for humans who work for the ethical care of animals everywhere, for veterinarians and biologists, for shelter staff and pet-loving friends. We praise you, O God, for our calling, here in New Hampshire, to be stewards of your whole creation.

ALL: The earth is God's, and all that is in it! Hallelujah!

One: O God, we thank you for the blessing of our lives and days, for the privilege of being creatures of your making and partners in your loving work on earth. We praise you, O God, for the sweet and surprising world you have made.

**ALL: How sweet life is!
How graciously you create!
How grateful we are for all that you have made,
and all that you continue to create in our midst!
Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

*** A SONG OF FAITH AND GLADNESS**

"This is God's Wondrous World" / Tune: NCH #21 (TERRA BEATA)

1. This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world, I rest me in the thought of
Rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is God's wondrous world: and birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair, in the
Rustling grass or the mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.
3. This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'r forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad? Let
Voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, so let the earth be glad!

FOR ALL THE CREATURES, BLESSINGS

BLESSING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS (1)

We'll do this in two groups...and you're welcome to decide when the time's right for you and your furry/scaly/funky beloved...you'll come to the chancel steps...and you'll be greeted by Pastor Dave and our young church friends...who will offer a short prayer and laying on of hands! Be blessed! Be touched!

"All God's critters got a place in our choir!"

Feel free to wander outside if you need the space, or your furry friends look like they do!

* A CELEBRATION OF GOD'S PEACE

* A SONG OF CREATURELY WONDER

"All God's Critters" / Bill Staines & Janet Wheeler

All God's critters got a place in the choir

Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands,
or paws or anything they got now



Well, listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom

Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to-do
And the old cow just goes, 'Moo-ooo-ooo'

Well, the dogs and the cats they take up the middle

The honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howwwwwwwwwwwls

All God's critters got a place in the choir...

Well, listen to the top where the little bird sings

The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees (yak-yak-yak)

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day

The little duck quacks and he's on his way
The 'possum don't have much to say
And the porcupine talks to herself (sshhhhhh)

All God's critters got a place in the choir...

Everybody here is a part of the plan

We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's all one sweet swingin' symphony

All God's critters got a place in the choir

Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now

A READING FOR CREATIONTIDE

Genesis 1 / In the Beginning / The Voice: Step into the Story of Scripture

In the beginning, God created everything: the heavens above and the earth below. Here's what happened: At first the earth lacked shape and was totally empty, and a dark fog draped over the deep while God's spirit-wind hovered over the surface of the empty waters. Then there was the voice of God.

God: Let there be light.

And light flashed into being. God saw that the light was beautiful and good, and He separated the light from the darkness. God named the light "day" and the darkness "night." Evening gave way to morning. That was day one.

God: Let there be a vast expanse in the middle of the waters.

Let the waters above part from the waters below.

So God parted the waters and formed this expanse, separating the waters above from the waters below. It happened just as God said. And God called the vast expanse "sky." Evening gave way to morning. That was day two.

God: Let the waters below the heavens be collected into one place and congregate into one vast sea, so that dry land may appear.

It happened just as God said. God called the dry land "earth" and the waters congregated below "seas." And God saw that His new creation was beautiful and good.

God: Earth, sprout green vegetation! Grow all varieties of seed-bearing plants and all sorts of fruit-bearing trees.

It happened just as God said. The earth produced vegetation—seed-bearing plants of all varieties and fruit-bearing trees of all sorts. And God saw that His new creation was beautiful and good. Evening gave way to morning. That was day three.

God: Lights, come out! Shine in the vast expanse of heavens' sky
dividing day from night to mark the seasons, days, and years.
Lights, warm the earth with your light.

It happened just as God said. God fashioned the two great lights—the brighter to mark the course of day, the dimmer to mark the course of night—and the Divine needled night with the stars. God set them in heavens' sky to cast warm light on the earth, to rule over the day and night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that His new creation was beautiful and good. Evening gave way to morning. That was day four.

God: Waters, swarm with fish and sea creatures.

Let birds soar high above the earth in the broad expanse of sky.
So God created huge sea creatures, all the swarm of life in the waters, and every kind and species of flying birds—each able to reproduce its own kind. And God saw that Their new creation was beautiful and good.

God: Be fruitful and multiply. Let creatures fill the seas.

Let birds reproduce and cover the earth.

Evening gave way to morning. That was day five.

God: Earth, generate life! Produce a vast variety of living creatures—domesticated animals, small creeping creatures, and wild animals that roam the earth.

It happened just as God said. God made earth-creatures in a vast variety of species: wild animals, domesticated animals of all sizes, and small creeping creatures, each able to reproduce its own kind. God saw that His new creation was beautiful and good. And God paused.

God: Now let Us conceive a new creation—humanity—made in Our image,
fashioned according to Our likeness. And let Us grant them authority over all
the earth—the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated
animals and the small creeping creatures on the earth.

So God did just that. They created humanity in His image, created them male and female. Then God blessed them and gave them this directive: “Be fruitful and multiply. Populate the earth. I make you trustees of My estate, so care for My creation and rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that roams across the earth.”

God (to humanity): Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant that grows on
the earth and every fruit-bearing tree. They will be your food and nourishment.
As for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and every small creeping
creature—everything that breathes the breath of life—

I have given them every green plant for food.
And it happened just as God said. Then God surveyed everything They had made, savoring its beauty and appreciating its goodness. Evening gave way to morning. That was day six.

So now you see how the Creator swept into being the spangled heavens, the earth, and all their hosts in six days. On the seventh day—with the canvas of the cosmos completed—God paused from Their labor and rested. Thus God blessed day seven and made it special—an open time for pause and restoration, a sacred zone of Sabbath-keeping, because God rested from all the work They had done in creation that day.

One: For the Word of God in scripture

ALL: We give thanks!

One: For the Word of God among us

ALL: We give thanks!

One: For the Word of God within us

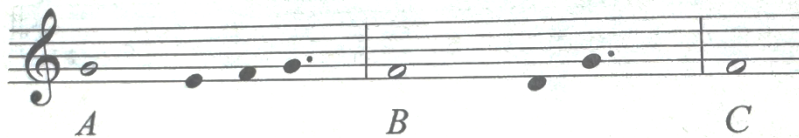
ALL: We give thanks and praise to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“I Loved Me a Cat” ■ American

Folk Song

Our Chancel Choir, David Ervin,
Directing



BLESSING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS (2)

A PSALM FOR CREATIONTIDE

Psalm 149 / **Let Her Children Be Joyful** / Psalms in Ordinary Voices

The psalm reimagined by Julia Jean, teacher, writer, researcher and seeker.

Refrain: Let Her children be joyful

As we praise Her names.

In the Dance, the Great Dance, of the Earth.

A: Give praise to the Goddess within \ and without.

B: Sing or bark unto our Lady a \ new song

Creatures
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A: for we shall praise Her with our \ very presence.
C: Let the Universe rejoice in \ Her cre-ations.
A: We will play our heart drums \ and soul strings.
B: We will pluck the sinews of \ our skeletons.
A: Let Her many creatures be \ joyful and brave
C: As we praise Her names in \ the Great Dance. [REFRAIN]

Cantor]

A: We will merge in the Great Rite with equa-\ nimity
B: and freedom in our stomping feet \ and paws.
A: For She takes pleasure in Her \ devotees.
C: All acts of love and pleasure \ are her rituals.

Creatures
]

A: We rejoice in Her edgeless \ lumi-nosity,
B: We are joyful in \ Her glory.
A: She clothes us in Her radiant \ jewel strength.
C: We chant Her names in our waking \ and sleeping. [REFRAIN]

Cantor]

A: When we surrender complete- \ ly in Truth
B: we lose only our \ smallness
A: and not our power \ or our glory.
C: We step into Her; and we \ become One. [REFRAIN]

INTO THE WORLD, LOVINGKINDNESS

A WELCOME TO COMMUNITY AND MINISTRY

AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS YEAR'S STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

AN INVITATION TO SHARING AND GENEROSITY



With gladness for God's care and our own commitment to this community's mission, we are moved to offer gifts or follow through on pledges that sustain God's work here in Durham.

*There are **two easy ways to contribute** this morning: a QR code here that takes you quickly to our Giving Page online, and baskets at both exits (mezzanine and narthex) for other contributions.*

One: For the sharing of our resources,
the blessing of our gifts in common cause,

is a vital sign of God's grace at work in us:

**All: Let us be brave and wise in collaboration.
 Let us be faithful and generous in service.**

One: For vine and the branches are one,
 for the Body is sustained in love,
 and all that we are and will be together is the Spirit's blessing:

**All: May God's vision be our intention,
 And our intention be our purpose, this day and always.**

A MUSICAL REFLECTION ON VISION & PURPOSE

Catherine York

*** SUNG RESPONSE ■ No. 780**

Praise God the Breath of every dawn,
Creator's Light, Composer's Song,
Praise God the Arc of every day,
Shalom, Sweet Wisdom, Love's true Way. Amen.

*** GATHERED UP IN PRAYER AND LOVE**

For those **living with illness** or worry:

For communities **stressed by violence, injustice** & despair:

For those **seeking wisdom** in a time of a challenge/change:

For those **faithfully working for justice** and peace:

One: This is [our] prayer.

*ALL: Great Spirit of God,
Hear our prayer!*

*** INVOKING SPIRIT, JESUS' PRAYER**

Earth-maker, Life-giver, Pain-bearer,
Source of all that is and all that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:

May the hallowing of your name

ECHO THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!

May your heavenly will be done
by all creatures great and small!

And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need this day, feed us.

For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.

By your grace and mercy,

Strengthen us through seasons of temptation,

and spare us from trials too great to endure.

Free us from bigotry and evil, for service and truth;

for you reign in **THE GLORY OF THE POWER THAT IS LOVE.**

Amen and Ashe!

*** HYMN**

Siyahamb' ekuhanyen' kwenkhos (We Are Marching in the Light of God)

NCH #527

BENEDICTION

Dave Grishaw-Jones

POSTLUDE

Catherine York

**TODAY'S DIFFERENT AND WONDERFUL AND LITTLE
WILD, RIGHT?**

Because it is, and because of this fabulous blessing of animals, we hope you'll come and go as you wish, and as is most comfortable for you and your beloveds! Stay for the hour...or come for the blessing and go...

Know that your presence in the circle is a blessing to us all...and we do ~~this (or something kinda like it)~~ every week!



We're excited to invite friends and seekers to "THE TABLE"—Sundays at 12 noon in the chapel, each and every Sunday. It's our experimental, conversational gathering around a bountiful table—inspired by the lively music of Stu Dias and his band of local musicians.

Looking for something a little different? Hoping to see God from a new angle?

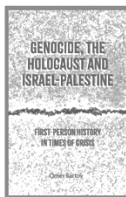
Join us Sundays at 12 noon. Around "THE TABLE"!

**Not in My Name NH & NHCUCC Peace w/Justice
Advocates present an evening with:
Omer Bartov "Genocide in Israel? What went
wrong?"**



Omer Bartov is an Israeli-American scholar and Dean's Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University. Bartov served in the IDF in the 1970s and studied at Tel Aviv University and Oxford. Prof. Bartov is the author of several books including "Genocide, The Holocaust and Israel-Palestine: First-Person History in Times of Crisis (2023), named Choice 2024 Outstanding Academic Title; and "Israel: What Went Wrong? (2026)."

**Wednesday, Sept. 23rd 5:30 - 8:30 at
Community Church of Durham, 17 Main Street**



Please join us for a pot-luck dinner from 5:30 -6:30. The program will start at 6:30 with a book signing at 8pm. Palestinian art, crafts, olive oil will be for sale!
Tickets available online or at the door.
All are Welcome!!



Thank you to our co-sponsors:

NH PeaceAction Ed Fund, Palestine Education Network, NHCUCC
Peace with Justice Advocates, Veterans for Peace, Jewish Voice for
Peace NH/VT and Karin & Stephen Barndollar

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Neur

ond:

A Workshop

Saturday, October 3rd ~ 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Community Church of Durham

17 Main St. Durham, NH 02824

Please email Jamie Willett at jwillett@comcast.net to register and get the link to the registration form if you aren't able to use the QR code.